

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



## COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS

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Resource Center on Educational Equity State Education Assessment Center

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DEC - 7 1994

December 7, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Comments on PR Docket No. 93-61

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Attached is a joint petition from national organizations and key individuals concerned about providing affordable and efficient connections for schools, libraries, and other learning institutions. We ask that you give serious consideration to our request. Your decision will affect the delivery of education-enhancing services to millions of students and other learners. It will also have a direct bearing on whether schools and libraries reach the goal expressed by President Clinton and Vice President Gore to connect schools and libraries to the NII. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Ambach  
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: William F. Caton, FCC Secretary

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# **JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

As representatives of our nation's leading education and library organizations, we ask that the FCC not disrupt the present or future use of the 900 MHz frequency band by Part 15 products. Adoption of the proposed Part 90 rules would cause serious injury to Part 15 manufacturers, vendors and consumers, and is not in the public interest.

At all levels, the ability of students, teachers and parents to communicate among each other and to access school and public on-line resources and the Internet will be a critical part of education in the information age.

Part 15 devices using the 900 MHz frequency band have the potential to provide the breadth of services we need with a cost/value relationship that schools and libraries can afford. To limit the usefulness of these networks would be to seriously impact the public interest in a very wide variety of areas. In 1985, the Commission adopted rules which permitted unlicensed spread spectrum operations in the 902-928 MHz band subject to specified power limits. Almost immediately, manufacturers began exploring potential new applications for spread spectrum technology.

In response to the Commission's encouragement, Part 15 manufacturers have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the research, development and production of new commercial and consumer products. We believe the Commission's actions were, and continue to be in the public interest. Technological advances have created the ability to provide low cost, reliable, Part 15 wireless communications products and services for all public and private sectors of our economy. Whether these services are communications from a wireless phone, the use of wireless modems in schools, colleges, universities, and libraries, or the provision of data to children with computers in schools which are not wired for computer networks, the public interest and our economy are being well served.

There are other locations on the spectrum suitable for LMS technology, locations that will not impact Part 15 devices. To foreclose the benefits of Part 15 products and services in order to encourage investment in LMS technology that is outdated is, therefore, not in the public interest.

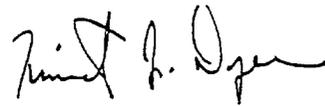
(Signature pages attached)

**LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM  
SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**



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**William Wright, Jr.**  
**Consortium for School Networking**



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**Tim Dyer**  
**National Association of  
Secondary School Principals**



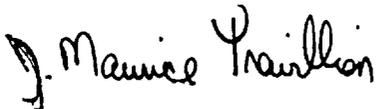
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**Drew W. Albritten**  
**Coalition of Adult  
Education Organizations**



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**Lewis A. Rhodes**  
**American Association of School  
Administrators**



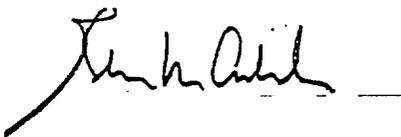
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**J. Maurice Travillian**  
**Chief Officers of State Library  
Agencies**



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**Barbara J. Yentzer**  
**National Education Association**



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**Gordon Ambach**  
**Council of Chief State School  
Officers**



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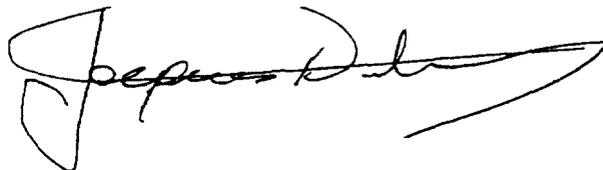
**Martha Matzke**  
**American Federation of Teachers**

**LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM  
SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**



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**P. Kenneth Komoski**  
Educational Products Informational  
Exchange (EPIE) Institute



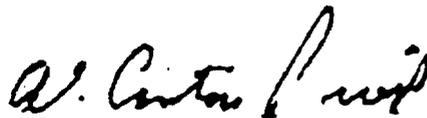
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**Jacques Dubois**  
Prince George's Community College



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**Bonnie L. Bracey**  
Signing as an individual member of the  
National Information Infrastructure  
Advisory Council



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**Curtiss Priest**  
Center for Information,  
Technology, and Society



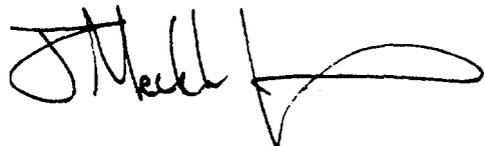
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**Steven Hodas**  
Sterling Software/NASA K-12  
Internet Initiative



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**Christopher Dede**  
George Mason University



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**James A. Mecklenburger**  
Global Village Schools Institute



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**Ilene Rosenthal**  
The Lightspan Partnership, Inc.

**LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM  
SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**



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**David Byer**  
**Software Publishers Association**



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**Don I. Tharpe**  
**Association of School Business  
Officials International**

# **LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**

**The following members of Organizations Concerned About Rural Education (OCRE) have asked that their organizations be included as signers of this petition:**

**American Academy of Physician Assistants  
Council for Education Development and Research  
Credit Union National Association  
National Association of Counties  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grange  
National Rural Education Association  
National School Boards Association**